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PEACE TREATY AT RE-CONVENED SUMMIT

A re-convened Summit Conference should deal with the urgent questions of a peace treaty with Germany and the status of West Berlin, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchov stated in a speech in East Berlin on May 20th.

The Soviet Union believes that the Summit Conference should be held in six to eight months, and the three western powers stated in a communique on May 18th that they were ready to take part in negotiations "at any suitable time in the future".

Mr Khrushchov paid a three day visit to East Berlin to confer with statesman of the German Democratic Republic after the Summit Conference, scheduled to open in Paris on May 16th, had failed to start.

In his speech in East Berlin, Mr Khrushchov stated:

"Yesterday we consulted at length with the leading personalities of the German Democratic Republic on the question of the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany, and the question of West Berlin which is inextricably linked with it. In these discussions we emphasised once again that the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic have the same views on these problems as on other problems.

"In the situation which has developed, there is no other path than the conclusion of a peace treaty with the two existing German states, thus finally writing 'finis' to World War Two. On this basis the question of the ending of the occupation of West Berlin would be solved: for West Berlin we have proposed, and continue

to propose, the status of a Free City.

"As we have repeatedly stated in the past this would do away with the abnormal situation by which troops of a hostile military grouping are stationed in the heart of the German Democratic Republic...

"At present we are confronted by a singular situation. It took the states of the anti-Hitler coalition rather more than five years to smash fascist Germany; but fifteen years have proved to be too short to conclude a peace treaty with Germany...

"We had expected the Summit Conference to bring us nearer to the solution of the most important international questions, including the question of a peace treaty with Germany. What should we do in view of the situation which has now arisen?

EAST GERMAN GERMS?

"The State Department has refused to let Government physicians attend an international symposium on poliomyelitis in Moscow next week because Communist Chinese and East German delegations will also be present.

"The State Department takes the view that the presence of the three Government scientists at the conference, which is outside the cultural exchange framework, might imply unintended recognition or 'prestige' to the Communist regimes of China and East Germany."

("New-York Times" May 12th 1960)

"Naturally the Soviet Union and all peaceable countries would now have the full moral right to solve these questions without delay, by concluding a peace treaty with the German Democratic Republic. This would also mean the solution of the West Berlin problem.

"The question is whether the time has not come for the conclusion of a peace treaty with the German Democratic Republic: the United States acted in such a way by concluding a unilateral peace treaty with Japan.

"We have discussed this question, and have come to the following conclusions: we believe that despite the wrecking of the Summit Conference by reactionary forces, the struggle of peaceable forces for the settlement of international questions of dispute by means of negotiation will be crowned by victory over the forces of war and reaction.

"We hope that the Summit Conference will be held in six to eight months. Under these circumstances it is worth waiting, so that the Big Four may find a solution to the overdue problem of signing a peace treaty with both German states.

"We shall not lose sight of this subject: let us wait awhile so that it ripens better!

"Obviously the existing situation with regard to the peace treaty and the question of West Berlin will have to continue until the heads of government meet, after a period as we expect, of between six and eight months. We believe that the conference can be held at such a date not only because we have

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proposed it, but because the western powers have in practice accepted this proposal in their communique of May 18th.

"The western powers, our partners in the Summit Conference, must understand our attitude properly. For their part they must act according to the same principle: that is to say to take no unilateral steps which would prevent a meeting of the heads of government in from six to eight months...

"At the same time I must warn our partners that neither the Soviet Union nor the German Democratic Republic intend to sit endlessly on the seashore and wait for good weather in the question of a peace treaty with Germany.

"Nobody should misuse our patience. The peaceable states will not allow a perpetuation of the occupation regime in West Germany."

Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, speaking after Premier Khrushchov, detailed what he understood by the "residue of World War Two", which should be cleared away by the conclusion of a peace treaty. He defined this "residue" as follows:

1. The rebuilding of the aggressive Wehrmacht in West Germany, led by former nazis and militarists.

2. Revenge propaganda, racist, militarist and fascist propaganda.

3. The influential positions held in West Germany by nazi judges, Hitlerite generals, and other prominent nazis.

4. The existence of a system of occupation rights for the western powers, used to support the aggressive policy of West German imperialism.

5. The existence of reservations concerning "Germany as a whole" in the relations of the western powers with the West German separatist state.

6. The existence of emergency rights for the western powers.

7. The troop stationing rights of the western powers.

8. The continuance of the occupation regime of the western powers in West Berlin, which is exploited by the West German Government for its aggressive policy against the German Democratic Republic and the other socialist states.

9. The freedom of activity granted to militarist and fascist forces in West Berlin.

10. The freedom of activity granted to centres of provocation and to the "Radio in American Sector" for hostile activity against the German Democratic Republic.

11. The stationing of foreign troops in West Berlin, and the special rights of the western powers in all economic, political and social spheres.

12. The transit privileges for troops and goods between West Berlin and West Germany.

13. The use by the western powers of the transit routes through the GDR without an agreement with the Government of the GDR.

14. The uncontrolled air traffic by the air companies of the three western powers between West Berlin and West Germany.

15. The impermissible continuation by the western powers of such former quadripartite organs as the Travel Board Office of the Control Council.

16. The military missions in West Berlin, and the military missions of the three western powers in Potsdam.

Walter Ulbricht stated: "That is a small list of the remnants of World War Two, which must be swept away. The German people are interested in a development of relaxation of tension, so that the Summit Conference may reach an agreement on sweeping away the remnants of the war in Germany, so that our people may live in peace."

Adenauer Slips

Konrad Adenauer's Christian Democratic Party suffered two heavy defeats in provincial elections on May 15th in Baden-Wuerttemberg (Southwest Germany) and the Saar. Main gainers in both elections were the Social Democrats.

The Baden-Wuerttemberg election was marked by the lowest turnout of voters ever to cast ballots in a West German election. Christian Democratic candidates received 39% of the votes cast, compared to 53% in the national elections of 1957.

The Social Democrats increased their share of the votes from 26% in 1957 to 35% in this election.

The local elections on the Saar, which is now completely integrated into West Germany, also resulted in big gains for the Social Democrats (from 19% in 1956 to 32%). They came close to the Christian Democrats, who got 37% of the current vote.

Political observers expected no great political changes in the two provinces, however, since Christian Democrats and Social Democrats work together in both cases in coalition governments which will almost certainly remain in power.

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WEHRMACHT ARMS FOR A-WAR

GDR White Book Reveals Preparations

The West German Wehrmacht today possesses dozens of nuclear weapon launching installations of various types, according to a White Book published in May 1960 by the Foreign Ministry of the German Democratic Republic.

The book, entitled "Peace or Atomic War? — White Book on the Policy of the Two German States", dealt at great length with the German question, and with the historic developments which led up to the present position. One whole chapter was devoted to an analysis of the present state of rearmament in West Germany. GERMAN REPORT presents below, in summarised form, the information given by the White Book on this subject:

1. Nuclear Arms

Units of the West German army dispose today over 46 atomic cannon (203 mm. calibre); 10 launching ramps for "Honest John" rockets; 12 launching ramps for "Matador" missiles; and 48 ramps for "Nike" anti-aircraft missiles. All of these installations are designed primarily for use with nuclear warheads or shells.

By 1963, plans call for the Wehrmacht to be equipped with 80 atomic cannon, 60 "Honest John" ramps, 12 "Sergeant" ramps, and 72 ramps for "Matador" and "Mace" missiles, with a range of over 500 miles. In addition the West German Luftwaffe will have about 500 fighter bombers equipped to use nuclear bombs.

West German soldiers and officers are being trained on these missiles at Fort Bliss and other military training centres in the USA, as well as at US military bases in West Germany.

2. Manpower

In March 1960 the West German Wehrmacht had reached a strength of 260,000, thus making it the second strongest NATO contingent on European soil. In addition more than 136,000 fully trained reservists could be called up at any time. A very high proportion of the strength of the Wehrmacht is actual fighting men, since routine work at base is done by 80,000 civilians. Present targets call for manpower strength to be increased to 350,000 by March 1961. The increasing number of trained reservists becoming available means that by the beginning of 1963 the West German Wehrmacht

will have a potential fully-mobilised strength of nearly one million men.

3. Arms Production

The arms factories are booming again in West Germany, and US arms firms are cooperating closely with their West German opposite numbers. Here are a few examples:

a. Lockheed Aircraft has purchased a big interest in the German aircraft firms Heinkel and Messerschmitt, which are building 250 "Fouga Magister" planes for the Luftwaffe on French licence, as well as part of the big order for 570 "Starfighter F 104" planes placed by the West German Defence Ministry.

b. General Electric has purchased part of the share capital of the West German firm BMW, which is building jet engines for "Starfighters".

c. United Aircraft Corporation has a big interest in Weser-Bremen AG, which is building "Noratlas" planes, and assembling a large number of "F 84 F" planes. Weser-Bremen AG is controlled by Krupp.

d. Continental Motors Corporation has concluded an agreement with Klöckner-Humboldt-Deutz for joint development work on tanks and other military vehicles.

e. Studebaker-Packard Corporation has concluded a similar agreement with Daimler-Benz, part of the Flick Trust. The two firms are doing joint research work on remote-controlled anti-aircraft rockets and on a motor for a light tank.

West German shipyards are now building the following vessels for the West German navy: 12 submarines, 12 destroyers, over 100 mine-sweepers, MTBs, etc.

4. ABC Weapons

Under the Paris Agreements of October 1954 the West German Government pledged itself not to make any atomic, biological or chemical weapons, or guided missiles. Various steps are now being taken to evade or cancel this ban.

There is close cooperation between West Germany and France in the field of nuclear weapon development.

Here are some details:

a. West German nuclear scientists are working in the French nuclear research centres at Fontenay-aux-Roses and Marcoule.

b. An agreement has been concluded between the West German AEG Trust and the French firms

Alsthom Societé des Constructions Electriques et Mécaniques and Compagnie Française Thompson-Houston on joint work on plutonium technology, useful for building nuclear weapons.

c. The French firm St Gobain has agreed with the West German firm DEGUSSA on the joint production of lithium 6, basic raw material for one type of hydrogen bomb.

Steps are also being taken for exclusively West German atom-bomb production. The West German atomic programme foresees by 1965 the installation of large reactors with 500 megawatt output, which would be uneconomic, but which would produce sufficient plutonium for West Germany to make its own bombs.

In the chemical field, the West German Government is encouraging research into nerve gases. The Bayer Dyestuffs Factory (successor to IG Farben) is working intensively in this field. The research work is led by Dr Gerhard Schrader, who developed the nerve poison "Bladan" for the nazis in 1939; later he developed the gas "Tabun" which was used for some of the nazi concentration camp murders. Another leading research worker in the Bayer laboratories is Professor Wolfgang Wirth, who worked during World War Two on nerve poisons at the Berlin Military Academy.

Protest on Air Intruder

Violation of the borders of the GDR by an unidentified airplane coming from West Germany was protested by General Yacubovski, commander of the Soviet troops stationed in the GDR, in a note to the commanders of western troops in West Germany.

The plane, which carried no national markings, flew over 50 miles deep into GDR territory and refused to land despite repeated signals by Soviet planes. It then flew back to West Germany.

General Yacubovski stated in his note that the High Command of the Soviet Troops in Germany had refrained from taking further measures against the intruder, but warned against further incidents of this kind.

Our own Hansard

WHAT ABOUT NAZI DOCUMENTS?

British M.P.s have again raised the question of the documents on Nazi Party members now in US custody in West Berlin, and other documents on nazis which are being kept secret from the public. Here are the questions and answers from the May 16th session of the House of Commons:

Mrs Castle (Blackburn, Lab.) asked whether the Foreign Secretary could make a statement on the action taken by the Government to secure the transfer to United Nations custody of all the records of Nazi activities at present in the possession of various governments.

Mr Allan, Under-Secretary, Foreign Office (Paddington, South, C.): After careful consideration the Foreign Secretary has decided not to take this action.

Mrs Castle: I am not particularly surprised at that answer. The United States authorities have refused to allow the German Social Democratic Party access to the documents on the ground that they would only entertain applications through official channels. Is it not wrong that Dr Adenauer should have a veto on the use of this material, particularly in view of his refusal to extend the period in which prosecution for manslaughter may be brought against former Nazis occupying high office in Germany?

Mr Allan said that the Foreign Secretary had decided to have discussions with the US authorities to see if any improvements could be made on the availability and the detailed arrangements under which the documents are made available.

Mr Stonehouse (Wednesbury, Lab.): In view of the fact that so many high officials in the west German administration are implicated in these documents, as they were prominent Nazis, is it not extremely dangerous that any of these documents should be returned unconditionally.

Mr Allan: I cannot accept the first part of that statement. These documents have been made freely available both in the Berlin document centre and in the Washington centre to people who have a genuine interest in exposing Nazi crimes. (Opposition cries of "No".) Yes, it is true. If you will give me an instance where this is not so I will look into it. No document is returned to the German Government without first being microfilmed, and the micro-

film is retained in the Washington national archives and is available.

Mr Stonehouse: How is genuine interest in research assessed?

Mr Allan: As sponsored through official channels. (Opposition cries of "Oh.")

Mrs Castle: I have already given two instances where access has been denied. Does not the German Social Democratic Party, the official opposition in west Germany, have proper status and title and interest in the matter? The American Jewish Congress has been refused access to the Berlin document centre by the Federal Government. How much more evidence does he want before he acts?

Mr Allan: The hon. member had just given me those instances this afternoon and I have not had much chance to look into them. But these

are the very points which will be discussed in the talks I referred to.

Sir L. Ungood-Thomas, (Leicester, North-East, Lab.): Does the Under-Secretary realise he is interpreting "genuine interest" as "interest subject to Dr Adenauer's veto." This is quite absurd. What is required is that those with a genuine interest and standing to prosecute in Germany should be able to do so. The British Government's policy is to give Dr Adenauer a veto on any action which is brought. (Opposition cheers.)

Mr Allan: That is not true. I was talking of people outside Germany — researchers in this country — and, of course, their applications have to be put through official channels. It is to correct these points and allay suspicions that these talks are going to be held.

Ulbricht-Adenauer TV Challenge

Walter Ulbricht, Democratic Germany's First Deputy Prime Minister, would be glad to argue with West German Chancellor Adenauer in front of American TV cameras.

This was the upshot of a conversation between Ulbricht and Martin Agronsky of the US TV network NBC on May 10th during the preparations for a filmed TV interview broadcast by NBC on May 13th.

Mr Agronsky related that it had not been easy to get Adenauer to agree to appear on the same programme as Ulbricht, and the GDR statesman said: "It would be much easier if you would invite Dr Adenauer and myself to have a public debate; this would certainly be interesting for the American viewers. We could hold the debate here in Berlin on the Potsdamer Platz (on the frontier between East and West Berlin), or in Geneva, just as you like."

Mr Agronsky commented that it was an interesting suggestion, but he feared that Adenauer would not agree. Walter Ulbricht said: "That is possible. After all, I represent a good cause, and there are always plenty of arguments for a good cause. Adenauer represents a bad cause, the cause of the German militarists and revenge-seekers, and there can be no good and convincing arguments for such a cause. He has plenty of

reason to avoid an open debate. But you could always try!"

Protest on Provocations

A wave of provocative acts by West Berlin police on railroad property of the German Democratic Republic resulted in a sharp note by the Government of the GDR on May 13th. The note was addressed to the Governments of USA, Britain and France, the three occupation powers in West-Berlin.

The protest note pointed out that the railroad lines and property in both parts of Berlin, which include the elevated city railroad (Stadtbahn), are the responsibility and property of the GDR authorities. But transportation police on regular duty on railroad property had been hindered in their job by West Berlin police. In some cases they were arrested at gunpoint, handcuffed and carried to West Berlin police stations in waiting police wagons. This showed that the West Berlin police actions were a planned provocation, aimed at making the atmosphere in Berlin even tenser than before.

Whereas in January this year there had been 47 such acts, their number had increased to 306 in April.

T.U. Work in the Factory

By Allen Mann

Nine people were present at the union meeting — the weekly executive committee meeting of the die forge department. The nine included one representative of the factory-wide executive, the young chairman, a tall red-headed worker who said nothing and a short, balding fellow who said a great deal, and two middle-aged women who worked at light machines in a sub-department.

Next to them sat a plump secretary who protested at first, but then agreed to take down the minutes for "just one more meeting". Lastly, there were two men one would not find everywhere at a union meeting: a 24-year old technical engineer, fresh out of college, and the manager of the department, who gave the meeting a report on production in the department. All present, even the last two named, were members of the union.

The meeting was held in the recreation room of the department, which had, besides the expected chairs, tables and lockers, a little library of about 30 or more books, which were evidently in wide use to judge from the dates inside the covers.

The die forge department was part of a large factory called "BMHW", which stands (in German) for Berlin Metal Smelting and Intermediate Products Works; copper, brass and aluminium are smelted here and made into semi-finished products used in a variety of other industries — from vehicle construction to power plants. The 2500 employees work in a sprawling series of red-brick buildings on both sides of Berlin's main river, the Spree; indeed, this was the first factory I had seen which used a motorboat for contact between departments.

Originally three private factories, the buildings had been badly wrecked and partially dismantled during and shortly after the war. Then they had been nationalised and finally combined into one publicly-owned firm.

But back to the executive committee meeting. Many of the questions discussed were difficult for an outsider to understand — and almost impossible for someone having not the faintest idea about die forges. But here are some of the points which came up, as well I could understand them.

Both union and management were eager to develop a kind of oil which

did not form evil-smelling smoke in one of the jobs in the department. The manager reported that a satisfactory substitute had not yet been found, but they were still trying. He also told what had been done on a proposal by one of the workers to cool ingots in three instead of eight hours — there were still a few kinks to be ironed out, it seemed, before this time-saving process could be introduced.

Another point discussed was a shipment of bronze ribbon exported to Czechoslovakia. It had been found faulty there in certain respects. The meeting checked on the fact that all difficulties here had been taken care of, and that this would not happen again.

Then there was some discussion on bonuses, and it was generally agreed that they would try to have the foreman decide on dividing up bonus money for good work in the different work teams, since he could judge the situation best.

Another point concerned production in the consumer goods department. Every factory in Democratic Germany has set up such a department in recent years in order to use by-products and metal remnants and decrease the number of "missing items" in the stores here. The BMHW factory produced everything from pots and fishing rods to wall lamps and bumpers for baby prams — projects lying clearly in the interests of nearly everyone, and the meeting discussed ways of helping

this programme along (the wall lamp production had not really got under way yet, for example).

The young engineer reported on safety precautions in the department — everything had been checked on and was in order and there had been no accidents in the period covered. One of the two women workers reported on social questions and pointed out that all members of the department had been visited after five days illness and helped out if necessary. Another spoke on holidays.

The little bald-headed man wanted to find out whether an out-moded machine complex was really to be "pensioned off" or not — if so, it was necessary to move faster with the planned re-training programme for the men who would be displaced on the job. But the member of the factory executive reassured him — the machinery would be kept in use for at least two or three years more, for the country needed every bit of production; there was still plenty of time for the re-training programme.

After the meeting was over, I had pieced together a first picture of how the union worked on this level; I later rounded out the picture by consulting a union leader on the plant-wide level.

There are over 80 trade union groups in the factory, each corresponding to a work team and having 20 or 30 members. Each group meets monthly and has one elected "Vertrauensmann", which is roughly equivalent to a steward. The stewards take part in the weekly executive committee meetings of their departments — such as the one I have just described. They also head commissions which report back to these meetings.

The whole system is repeated on the plant-wide level. An over-all executive committee is elected by the membership as a whole, and each member of it heads a commission. Since these commissions do most of the day-to-day trade union work, both on the plant-wide and department level, it is worth while describing them more closely.

One commission watches over safety measures, conducts classes on accident prevention and sees to it that the free safety clothing is properly distributed. For some workers this includes only work shoes, but for jobs where sparks fly, the work-



ers get everything from shoes to underwear free from the factory.

Another commission deals with holiday questions. Every factory receives a large number of inexpensive trips to union holiday homes for its members every year; in addition, like other plants, BMHW also has holiday homes of its own, one on a wooded lake with rooms for twenty people (the groups change every two weeks) and the other on an island called Hiddensee in the Baltic, with 25 beds. Several union members have already had the chance to go with the Trade Union Federation's holiday cruiser to the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. All employees get paid holidays varying from two to four weeks, of course, but the holiday homes are not large enough to permit everybody to go to one every year, so this commission must see that all get a chance as often as possible. Some holiday rooms are also reserved for retired workers, and there is a summer camp for the children.

Then there is the very important commission on Social Questions; it controls the factory canteen, where workers are served lunch every day. They have a choice of three dishes (three price ranges); the average is 80 pfennigs a meal, which means about ten or fifteen minutes' worth of work. The Commission also is in charge of the kindergarten, where mothers (and fathers) working in the plant can leave their children for the day.

It also maintains contact with the factory doctors, the dentist and the nurses, who not only treat accidents or toothaches and give the popular ultra-violet or other ray treatments, but examine all workers thoroughly every three months. Last year 112 workers were sent off for varying health cures, 45 received convalescence cures of three weeks each, and fifty men who work with lead or at high temperatures were sent on 4-week preventive cures. All such cures to formerly exclusive spas are free for the workers, of course, and they get sick pay while away. The Social Commission checks on this and also administers the health insurance system. It also helps old-age pensioners from the factory with a monthly sum of money additional to their regular pension, and it helps the relatives of deceased members financially. The management also provides 400 to 600 marks for funeral expenses, and on happier occasions, pays 100 marks to newly-weds and 60 marks to parents of new-born babies. These and other similar benefits only apply to employees of a year's standing. They are over and above

the generous "baby grants" made by the Government.

The Cultural Commission also has a long list of jobs and responsibilities, which start with running the factory library (with a paid librarian) and urging people to get a subscription to the theatre. Since 1955, the workers of BMHW have had their own cultural centre, where they have dances, film shows, and where the band, accordion and harmonica groups and the photo and film circles meet. Two recent additions, which are still having some difficulties getting started, are the drama circle and the amateur writing circle.

The Wage Commission is more difficult to explain. Most jobs in Democratic Germany are at "achievement pay", which is like piece-work. There is also a series of "wage groups" (from Group 1 to 8), based on job qualifications and skill needed for the job. Each wage group in an industry has its own base rate, which is paid when the "norm" (quota of required work) is fulfilled. Most workers average about 175 %

of the norms at present and this overfulfillment is paid accordingly. I found that in the brass smelting department, for example, the men who did the hot, difficult job of running the smelting furnace are in group 7, (2.79 marks an hour base rate), most other fairly skilled jobs were in group 6 (base rate = 2.24 marks) and the helpers were in wage group 5 (base rate = 1.89 marks). Only a few workers in this factory were rated lower than group 5, and all have a chance to take courses and move upwards.

There is in many departments a 10 % bonus for very dirty or heavy work, and there is a 10 % bonus for the night shift every third week; this adds up to a monthly wage of about 700, 850 and over 1000 marks for wage groups 5, 6 and 7 respectively (about £60, £70 and £85). There are also fairly frequent bonuses.

But norm fulfillment varies — from less than 150 % to over 200 % usually. Sometimes it is the average of a whole group of men, sometimes it is reckoned out individually. Thus, there are many possibilities of disagreement. A norm fulfillment of 190 % or 200 % is often considered evidence that the norm is unrealistic, which means that some workers are being paid too much at the expense of the others. The union is sometimes in a difficult position in such situations, for it must try to take an overall view — from both a plant-wide and a country-wide point of view. An unjustified higher rate of pay for one group is not a cut into somebody's profits, but rather into the general rate of progress of the whole country. The union works for improving conditions in general and for getting rid of the unjust inequalities left over from past years rather than fighting management for every penny possible as it would (and should) if the plant were producing for private profits.

But sometimes it must take a strong stand on this subject. Several years ago, the men in one department were turning out over 200 % of their norm, thanks to improvements in the technical methods used. They earned well over 1000 marks a month (over £85) although they were not working any harder. So management changed their norm, which meant more work was needed to make the same wages. The men claimed that management had no right to do this on its own, without talking it over with them and agreeing on it with the union. This developed into a long dispute which came before the factory Conflict Commission and then finally the Labour Court, where it was decided that although the norm was in fact too



Young amateur singers, jugglers and poets have been having a heyday this year in the German Democratic Republic. Read all about it — and about isotopes, bicycle riders, people in the new city of Stalinstadt and other subjects in the latest issue of "GDR Review".

This handsomely-illustrated, many-sided picture magazine gives a monthly view of life in Democratic Germany. It is published in English, French, Swedish, Spanish and German.

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low, the men were right in their complaint. Management had to pay them the difference in their pay for one and a half years — the length of time the case had lasted. After the union had fought the case through to the end it talked things over with the men and it was generally agreed to change the norm in the proper way. Such conflicts are not frequent, however; usually they can be solved easily and quickly.

The last commission I shall deal with is in charge of socialist emulation, or competition, and the movement to rationalise production. These are problems unheard of for a union in a private factory, of course, but they do make sense here. Whereas a steady increase in production in a private economy leads, at best to more dividends for the stock-holders and at worst to lay-offs for the workers when the number of workers required decreases, in the GDR neither is the case. More production means that there is more to buy in the shops, that prices can be reduced, and in the end, that working hours can be reduced without the need for bitter strikes or struggles. New methods also mean that the work gets easier as well as quicker and that heavy labour is replaced by machines. Since this is in everybody's interest, union and management work together to increase production by means of better organisation and mechanisation or automation, which never throws anyone out of work. Technical improvements are sought after and rewarded according to their value, and competitions are organised between departments and factories — the winning teams, departments and plants are honoured and also rewarded financially.

This all means that there is a different atmosphere in a nationally-owned factory than in a private one (in any country), although it is true that workers in both are naturally interested in making more money personally. But in a nationally-owned factory everybody, management and union, are basically aiming at the same goal. Of course, the union must watch out for the interests of its members here, too, especially since management is primarily interested in fulfilling the factory's share of the economic plan, and may sometimes overlook personal problems.

How well the union does its job in regard to its members naturally varies from one plant to another. But the main obligations of the management to the workers are in black and white in the annual contract, and this is always subject to regular control. The national laws,

too, were written largely by workers and protect the workers' interests.

Progress and a better life are based almost entirely on production successes here, and these are growing steadily in the GDR in a way

which is beginning to make many people in other countries take notice. The unions have a large share and a large voice in the progress and in planning for the future, from the level of the work team right up to the highest levels of the government.

Nazi Investigates Nazis

Public pressure to remove ex-nazi judges had results recently in the West German city of Wuppertal, but the decision of the Public Prosecutor's Office had an ironical twist which threatened to jeopardise the minor progress promised by the authorities.

Three men in Wuppertal's judicial apparatus had fascist records which could no longer be completely ignored, and it was decided to investigate them.

Dr Hucklenbroich, a court director, was on the Polish list of war criminals, and had sentenced more than 100 Poles to death during the war — mostly for minor infringements, because they had "expressed anti-German sentiments" or had in some other way violated the special Nazi laws for Poland.

Dr Dally, another court director, was also on the Polish list of war criminals. There were documents to prove that he had sentenced at least 20 Poles to death — for example, six men had been condemned to death on April 28th 1942 because they had aided Jews threatened by the Nazis.

Dr Bruchhaus, a public prosecutor in Wuppertal, had already served as public prosecutor under the Nazis. He had applied successfully for death sentences in countless cases of Communists, Social Democrats and even people who had listened to radio broadcasts from London. Dr Alois Geiger, a physician, for example, was sentenced to death in 1943 for saying that "after the events in Italy, it was after all possible that the war could be lost."

Then came the ironical twist. The man charged with investigating these cases was Dr Rudolf Reuter, senior public prosecutor in Wuppertal. And Dr Reuter had been a public prosecutor at the Nazi Special Court in occupied Prague and was himself No. A-38/87 on the Czechoslovak list of war criminals.

Any hopes that one Nazi war criminal might somehow expose and dispose of another were soon dissipated. Dr Reuter had once before been called upon to decide a case involving Dr Bruchhaus, one of the three men in question today. In 1958, he had turned down the widow of

one of Dr Bruchhaus' victims in her plea for a judgment against him; Dr Reuter had made the following statement at the time:

"Punishment of the judges and prosecutors responsible for the death sentence does not only require proof that the death sentence was not legally valid. One would also have to prove that they believed that it did not correspond with the real legal situation at the time. This cannot be proved. There are no indications that Public Prosecutor Bruchhaus arbitrarily violated any of the laws or principles of legal practice which were valid at the time..."

This decision of Senior Public Prosecutor Reuter in 1958 seemed a fair indication that the three men in question need not be alarmed about losing their posts in 1960.

Double GDR Win for Cyclists

The annual "Cycle Race for Peace", which stretched in 13 stages over 1200 miles from Prague to Warsaw to Berlin, saw a double victory for the team from Democratic Germany; it not only beat the other 19 countries as the fastest team, but also supplied the individual winner, Erich Hagen.

The race, usually considered the most difficult of all amateur cycle events, ended with a dramatic conflict between the teams of the GDR and Belgium; the Belgians Claes and Vandenberghe placed second and third in the final results, and were second in the team placing. They were followed by the Soviet Union, Poland, Britain and Denmark.

The only other case where one country won both in the team and individual results was Britain in 1952.

The race is famous, not only for its difficulty, but for the spirit of fairness, friendship and mutual help, despite the tough competition for winning positions. The race developments every year are followed with almost fanatical interest by the people of Czechoslovakia, Poland and the German Democratic Republic.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

"Operation Tut-Tut" is West Germany's latest contribution to the current campaign of not being nasty to the nazis. I have never had much to do with mass-murderers myself, so I can't say if they are deeply moved and resolve to better their ways if you say "Tut-tut" to them: but this is what the Government of Hesse Province in West Germany has decided to do with nazi judges with a war criminal record who are today back on the bench. You don't believe it? Here is the report on the brave and unflinching action, as circulated on May 7th 1960 by DPA, semi-official West German news agency:

"In Hesse Province illegal sentences passed during the Third Reich with the cooperation of judges, public prosecutors and other officials who are still in office, shall not go unheeded, even after the Statute of Limitations comes into effect... In such cases a note will be made in the personal files of the judges or public prosecutors concerned, and the relevant quarters will be able to take this note into consideration in the case of later promotions, etc."

The news agency message did not particularise whether this record of nazi crimes would be a positive or negative factor in getting promotion. If past form is anything to go on, judges in West Germany will now scramble to get a war-crimes notation in their personal files to ensure rapident possible promotion to the supreme court.

Just to give you some idea of the sort of "unjust sentences" passed during the Hitler period by judges back on the bench in the Province of Hesse, here is just one example: Dr Breustedt, today Public Prosecutor in Giessen, West Germany, served

By John Peet

during the war as judge in the nazi special court at Ciechanow, occupied Poland. On January 11th 1943 he sentenced a young Polish girl, Rosalie Kulesa, to death for "damaging the respect due to the German people". Her offence was that in the course of a quarrel she had hit a German woman in the face with a handbag "causing bruises which lasted for three days."

In at least three other cases Dr Breustedt sentenced Poles to death for trifling offences. So the West German authorities will perhaps punish him by making a note in his personal file.

As a matter of fact, they will probably refrain even from taking this step. "Operation Tut-Tut" is, you see, aimed against judges who passed "illegal sentences". This is interpreted by West German jurists as meaning sentences heavier than those provided for by law. Since nazi wartime laws and decrees provided for death sentences for almost anything (particularly in occupied Poland), the judges concerned can plead, and do plead, that they were just applying the law of the land.

Salutations

This column sends belated salutations to Helene Weigel, one of the world's greatest actresses, on the occasion of her 60th birthday on May 12th. For twelve years now Helene Weigel has been playing the title role in Bertolt Brecht's "Mother Courage" here in East Berlin, as well as many other memorable roles. At the same time she has found the time and strength to run the Berliner Ensemble, particularly since her husband, Bertolt Brecht, died in 1956.

It is the custom in the German Democratic Republic to award public figures some special distinction when they reach the age of 60. Helene Weigel has already received the National Prize and many other decorations, so the Ministry of Culture awarded her the title of Professor, a title which is much respected in Germany. Offhand I cannot recall any other case of a professor playing the female lead in a stage hit.

Dead Dog

Several years ago in this column I remarked upon the name of a GDR cigarette brand which would not recommend it to English-speaking purchasers: the name is "Muck", which, of course, means nothing of the sort in German.

Recently, an excellent Soviet filter cigarette has gone on sale here: the brand name is "Laika", after the dog who went up in one of the first sputniks. You can probably guess the nickname which this cigarette immediately got: "Dead Dog".

Fertiliser

While we are on the subject (muck, not dead dogs), I should like to mention something I discovered when leafing through a "Report on Chemical Fertilisers" prepared by the British Monopolies Commission, and published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office in 1959.

According to this report, British farmers are today able to buy potash cheaper, thanks to the fact that imports of this chemical fertiliser from the German Democratic Republic have broken the monopoly previously held by West German, French and Spanish producers. The report, which runs to 250 pages, goes into a lot of detail about previous semi-monopolies in the British fertiliser market, and then states: "In the case of Potash Ltd., the principal effect has been to reduce the average net selling price of potash in order to meet East German competition." A few pages later, the report states: "We have commented on the beneficial effects of competition from East Germany in recent years".

I know all this does not amount to much, but perhaps it deserves to go on record as probably the first favourable reference to the GDR in any official report published on behalf of Her Britannic Majesty.

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